

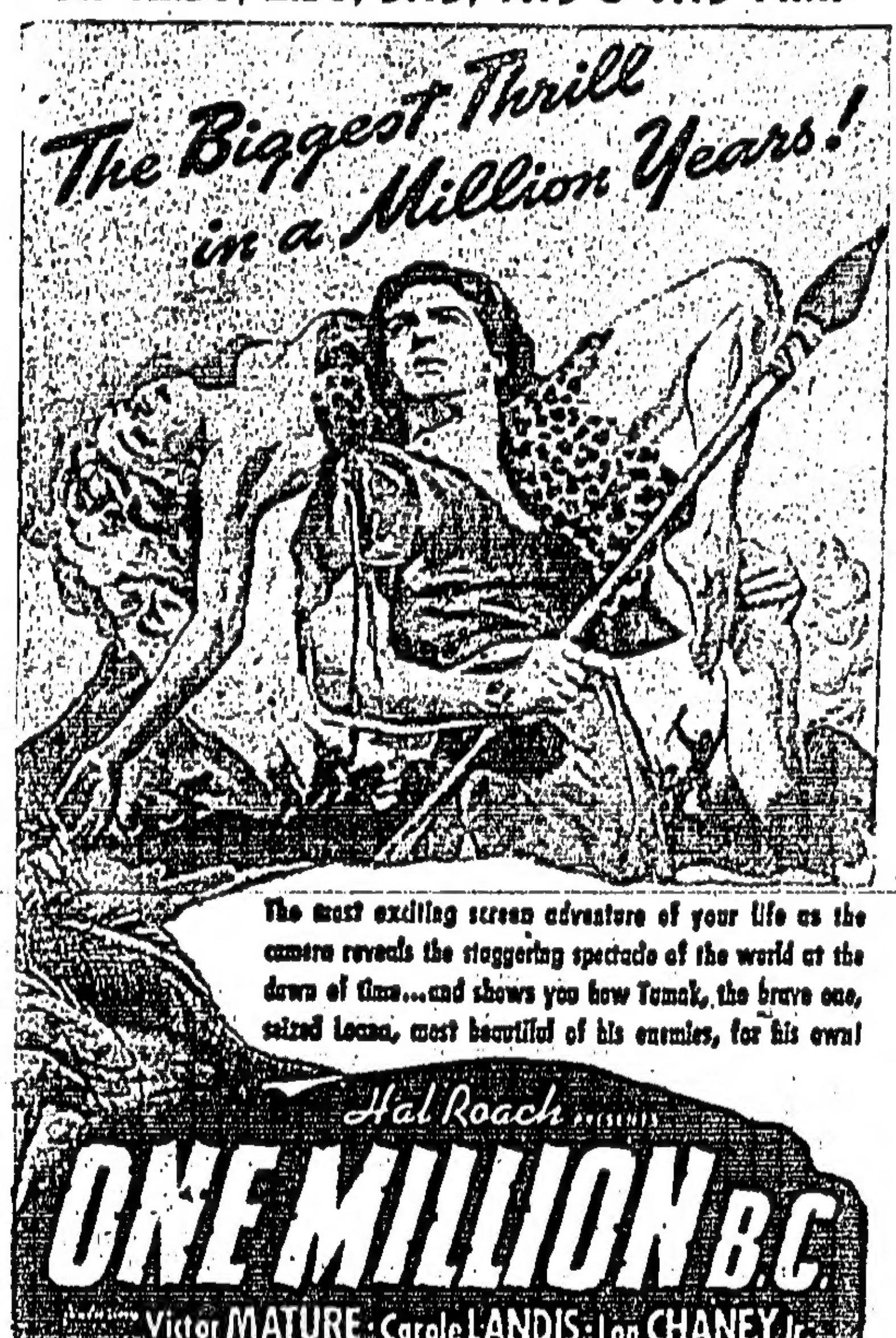
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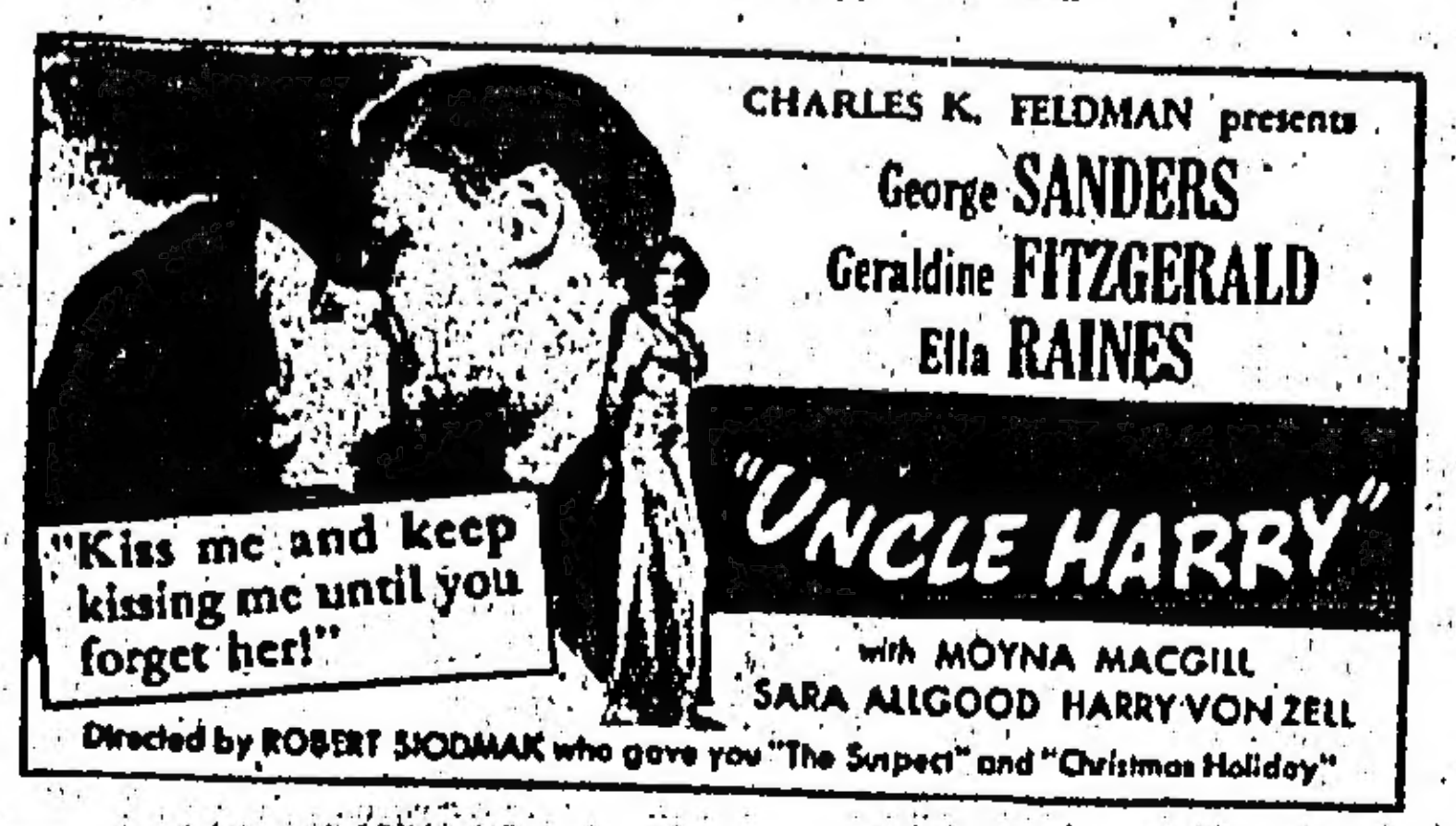


NEXT CHANGE
"BEHIND THE RISING SUN"

TO-DAY ONLY
ALHAMBRA THEATRE
At 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.



TO-MORROW



BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA

FACES were grim and there were many anxious moments at General MacArthur's headquarters in Melbourne in the first week in May, 1942. Army air reconnaissance reports revealed an ominous massing and movement of Japanese carriers, cruisers and transports at Rabaul and at Tulagi, on Florida Island in the Solomons.

All the evidence indicated that the plan thwarted in March was now maturing in a much more menacing form. Reports coming in on the number of transports being assembled in a troop carrying group and on the strength of the major covering force, were especially disquieting.

Whatever move the Japanese contemplated, it was definitely going to be on a large scale. Strength of the naval escort and covering forces and aircraft, apart from troop transports and support ships, was estimated at the invasion convoys which successfully descended upon the Netherlands East Indies. A formidable troop carrying group was supported by cruisers and destroyers and a seaplane carrier based on Rabaul. Intended to operate south of this group, a powerful covering force moved south-east from the Caroline Islands on May 1. It was composed of three carriers—Shokaku, Zuikaku and Shoho—a number of heavy and light cruisers, and flotillas of destroyers.

Questions

WERE these two major forces intended for a descent on the North Queensland coast? Was Australia to face a large scale invasion attempt? Was a frontal amphibious operation against Moresby contemplated?

If so, what was the meaning of the two distinct Japanese naval concentrations? Was a head-on assault on Port Moresby to be combined with an incursion into North Queensland?

These were the queries which loomed in the minds of United States and Australian Navy and Air Intelligence officers. They were questions over which General MacArthur himself pondered deeply. In the last analyses, all the cogitation added up to this—If Port Moresby was the immediate strategic prize sought by the enemy, and if that prize was secured, North Queensland would be the next objective. Who holds Port Moresby holds the key to northern and north-eastern Australia. That was accepted as an axiom by Allied Intelligence.

North-east of Buika, the Japanese covering force split, and one carrier, Shoho, and its escort steamed by way of Shortland Island to give extra cover to the troop-carrying group. Steaming south, but keeping to the eastward, the Japanese main body supported the Japanese landing at Tulagi and then moved on.

As these movements were plotted at headquarters, it was seen that this south-bound striking group began to turn west, south of Guadalcanal. Its intention was now clear. It was to act as a buffer between the troop transports heading for Moresby by any Allied naval force seeking to intercept them. From Florida Island, the Japanese with land-based planes, began to reconnoitre the entire northern portion of the Coral Sea.

For the Allied Naval Command, it was a plain case of calculating the risk involved in stationing our forces. Any error at this stage would have proved costly.

Code Mastered

AT the moment, a United States Pacific Fleet task force under Rear-Admiral Frank Fletcher out of Noumea, was cruising in the Coral Sea. It was composed of the carrier Yorktown, the three cruisers Astoria, Portland, and Chester, and six destroyers. Within easy signalling distance was another United States naval force which included the carrier Lexington.

These groups of ships were not south-west of Rennell Island just by chance. United States cryptographers had mastered the deciphering of the secret code which the Japanese were using for encoding their diplomatic messages. This gave them the means of obtaining advance information on departure dates of certain Japanese task forces and troop convoys.

In a letter, released in October, 1945, but written a year earlier, the Chief of the United States General Staff (General Marshall) stated: "I should say that the Coral Sea battle was based on deciphered

messages and therefore our few ships were in the right place at the right time. We possessed a wealth of information of Japanese moves in the Pacific. We checked their fleet movements and the movements of their convoys."

The Command accurately diagnosed the Japanese intention as the seizure of Port Moresby and the establishment of bases on Cape York Peninsula, in Northern Queensland. So it was decided to send Fletcher's force first against the Tulagi concentration.

One hundred miles south of Guadalcanal, on the morning of May 4, 1942, Fletcher loosed his planes from the Yorktown and the battle most vital to Australia's security, was opened. In spite of the wide scouting sweep by the enemy, Fletcher's bombers and torpedo planes caught the Japanese Tulagi force completely by surprise and almost annihilated it.

Hedgehopping

BOMBERS and torpedo planes had to fly in low behind Guadalcanal, rise just enough to skim the tree-tops of that island and slide down through the standing morning light, on to Tulagi. They found a seaplane tender with three destroyers moored in line behind it. Under a whirl of bombs and torpedoes one destroyer sank, and a second rolled over on its side and the tender blazed fiercely. A heavy cruiser was hit by 1,000-pounders and belched flame and debris. Six enemy seaplanes, riding on the sunlit waters of Tulagi harbour, were cut to pieces by cannon and machine-gun fire.

Two cruisers were badly rocked and a dozen bombs hit a big transport in the second strike, when pilots saw several ships ashore and burning and others spreading out through Sealark Channel to get away. In their third strike, Fletcher's bombers sank a damaged cruiser in the harbour entrance and again bombed those burning on the beach.

In this smashing attack, for the loss of only three aircraft, the bomber force sank 12 of the 15 enemy vessels in Tulagi Harbour, including two cruisers, three destroyers, and a seaplane tender and six transports and cargo-carriers. Decisive as the blow was, it was merely the preliminary skirmish.

Meanwhile, bombers from Port Moresby, manned by both Australians and Americans, struck at the western invasion force then grouping near De Boyne Island. They sank only one ship by high level bombing, but brought back reports of the size of this western invasion force, which ran into from 40 to 60 transports and warships.

Radio Silence

IT was then that the grave threat to Port Moresby and Torres Strait was fully realised at Allied Headquarters and by the Australian Government. It was known that Rear-Admiral Fletcher's force was far to the eastward in the Guadalcanal region, and that a second naval force, including an Australian squadron, was midway between San Cristobal, in the southern Solomons, and the Louisiades.

Though I myself am a Conservative, or, as they say to-day, a foul reactionary, I never fail to quote the words of those who think differently. Even extremists like Mrs. Wreath can be sure of a hearing. No speech of hers, however disgusting or merely silly, is suppressed, curtailed or altered. "Yes, but you only do this to make the progressive and enlightened look ridiculous. Myself! The public is listening! Anyway, they look ridiculous enough without any help from me."

Threshold and Snibbo

AS to the influence of advertising on the policy of this column, I will be frank. Threshold's Thorwip Garterette, Ltd., so often boosted by me, is owned by that big industrialist, Mr. J. B. Morton. And as it is he who gave me my first chance in journalism, and has always encouraged me, and given me exclusive bits of news, I see nothing wrong in increasing the sales of his excellent garterette. Snibbo is another of Mr. Morton's concerns which I advertise. I don't care for it, or believe in it, but it is in some way also connected with an American film company, and I cannot offend people like that.

In May 1942, the Japanese developed an ambitious plan to take Port Moresby, in New Guinea, and to develop it as a springboard for the invasion of Australia. But they were completely foiled in their attempt when Allied naval forces, in a continuing battle in the Coral Sea, cut their naval strength to pieces. Here is an authentic account by HUGH BUGGY

After the Tulagi strike, Fletcher's force retired south-westward, but he could not break radio silence to reveal his position. On the morning of May 5, he was joined by two other naval groups, including a task force led by HMAS Australia. The whole Allied force then built up to two carriers, Yorktown and Lexington, eight heavy cruisers, Minneapolis, Astoria, Louisville, Chicago, New Orleans, Chester, Portland and HMAS Australia, the light cruiser destroyers. Ships of the Tulagi force fuelled from the big US fleet tanker Neosho.

Fletcher decided to strike at the western invasion force in the Louisiades after the Australian squadron had refuelled on May 6. But the Japanese scouted all over the area with flying boats of 2,000-miles range, and one of these sighted the Allied force on the morning of May 6. Fueling was stopped and the combined Allied force steamed westward at 25 knots.

To attack Port Moresby, the enemy force would have to go round the south-eastern end of New Guinea, so Fletcher, 120 miles south of the Louisiade archipelago, decided to station an attack group near Jomard passage. So as to prevent enemy transports passing through the narrow straits of the archipelago, he posted in their probable path the Australian task force under the Rear-Admiral commanding the Australian squadron, Rear-Admiral J. C. Grace, plus the heavy cruiser Chicago.

Then, with the remainder of the force, he moved northward in an attempt to locate enemy covering forces and the main body. By the afternoon of May 6, the Japanese forces in the Louisiades became sufficiently consolidated to indicate an amphibious operation on a big scale. Fletcher decided to strike, and, on the morning of May 7, began the first carrier battle in history.

BY THE WAY by Beachcomber

IF, as is rumoured, there is to be a small Royal Commission (just a tiny one, please, and no gravy) set up to inquire into this column, I think it will be found that scrupulous impartiality is the principal characteristic of what appears here.

Though I myself am a Conservative, or, as they say to-day, a foul reactionary, I never fail to quote the words of those who think differently. Even extremists like Mrs. Wreath can be sure of a hearing. No speech of hers, however disgusting or merely silly, is suppressed, curtailed or altered. "Yes, but you only do this to make the progressive and enlightened look ridiculous. Myself! The public is listening! Anyway, they look ridiculous enough without any help from me."

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Zubzub el Marshrat

"I WAS awakened," said Celory Chaldecote to the police inspector, "by a man on a ladder. He was leaning in at my bedroom window, with a battered helmet on his head and an axe in his hand. He said he had come to carry me to safety. As the whole place was on fire, I slipped something on, and he carried me down and put me in a car. He explained that the gorse in the district was blazing, and we had to get away. I saw no fire, and no other firemen. He then asked me if I could do with a nip of brandy. I said I didn't want any. He said, 'Well, I do,' and then drank deeply. When he offered to sell me his helmet and axe I knew something was wrong." He then said, "My old mother will love you. What's your name?" Growing alarmed, I wrenched open the door and jumped out. I don't think he noticed what had happened, as he drove on with the door still open."

tory. It opened with the opposing naval forces 173 miles apart, and not a shell was fired by warships on either side.

Bombers from the Lexington and Yorktown found, north of Misima Island at a point 160 miles from their parent ships, a group of transports, two cruisers and the enemy carrier Shoho.

In his swift move to the west, Rear Admiral Fletcher deceived the Japanese. When their main striking force, having rounded the Solomon, swept north to attack him, they found only the US fleet tanker Neosho and its escorting destroyer USS Sims.

During the Pearl Harbour attack, the Neosho loaded with 90,000 barrels of oil and petrol was backed by her skipper Captain John Phillips between the US battleships California and Oklahoma and made her way to safety.

She had no such good fortune in the Coral Sea. Having probably mistaken the 18,000-ton tanker for a cruiser, a swarm of Japanese planes from the carriers Shokaku and Zuikaku wasted much valuable time and petrol in a major onslaught on the Neosho and Sims. They sank the Sims and so badly damaged the Neosho that she foundered later, but the missed the Yorktown force and thus enabled Fletcher to dispose his attack group near Jomard passage.

Secret Base

DURING the attack on the Shoho, enemy scout planes once more picked up the Yorktown group and, on the afternoon of May 7, the Japanese main covering force swung northward to attack. Again, Fletcher outwitted them by turning sharply south after he had disposed of the Shoho and heavily damaged a light cruiser and transports.

Land-based Australian and United States bombers from Townsville and from a new secret base in the tobacco-growing district of Mareeba, North Queensland, were thrown into the tense air battle. They succeeded in damaging the seaplane carrier which was supporting the Japanese transport forces. This delayed for some hours the savage assault which the Australian squadron later met and frustrated.

One of the aerodromes in Northern Queensland from which these planes operated had been constructed by 600 Allied Works Council men in 17 days. At one or two other airstrips used during the battle, the ingenious device was employed, of spraying molasses on the runway to counter the dust, to bind the surface, and assist pilots in taking off and landing.

(To Be Continued To-morrow)

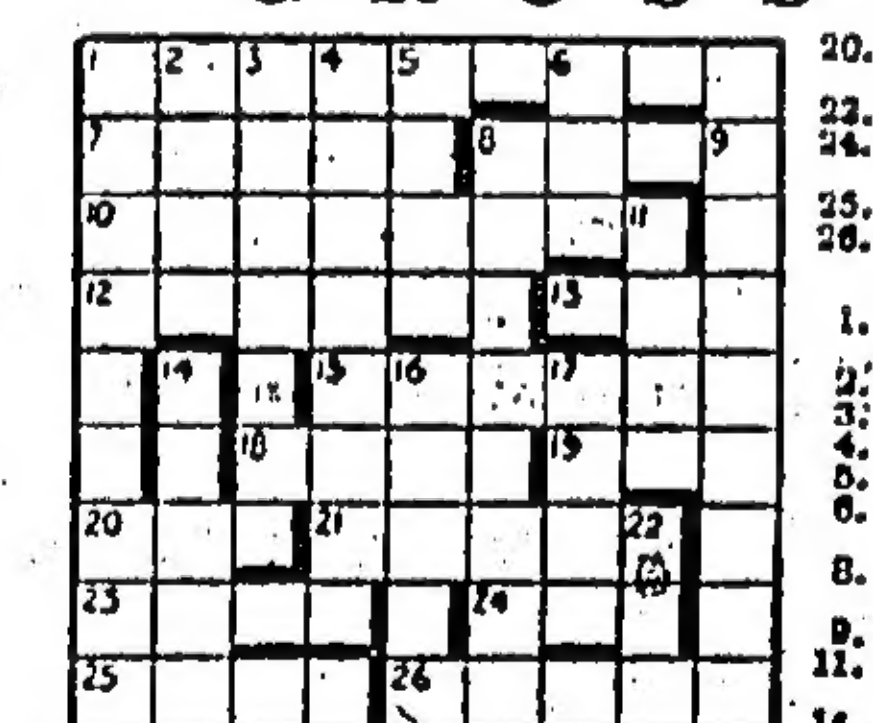
Rupert & the New Pal--8



All goes well until the two friends reach the first of the shops. Then, after going over a very large bump, the trolley scrapes along the ground and comes to a dead stop. "Oh, dear, what's up now?" gasps Rupert, peering over the edge. "It's the wheels," quavers Bill. "Look, they're all out of shape. I'm afraid you were too heavy. I'm sure I have broken the axle." "This is awful," cries Rupert. "My mummy loves using this trolley. We must try to mend it."

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CROSSWORD



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Women BEAUTY ARTS

By LOIS LEEDS



Posed for Lois Leeds.

Here's straight talk to Teeners!

TEEN TALK

Do you know that rouge may never touch your cheeks and still be used to enhance your best features or lessen your unattractive ones? If, up to now, you have just slipped on cake makeup and lipstick with a lick-and-a-promise, then you are not the sophisticated that you imagine yourself to be.

The discreet use of colour will bring you out of the doldrums on many a gray day, whether the dullness is with you or the weather. A bit of rouge, brushed lightly across your forehead, will give a glow to a tired, end-of-summer tan. A touch of rouge from your breast-bone up to your throat, will reflect a glow in your face. A bit of rouge under the tip of your nose or chin will soften a sharp contour and give the suggestion of a turned-up nose.

Every school girl knows the value of good grooming and the tricky use of rouge aids in that and in making her look more attractive. The fresh, clean look of the out of doors is achieved by health and good grooming but it is also enhanced by what I call Makeup Magic.

The discreet use of foundation, rouge and lipstick, plus good grooming, is important. The well-brushed hair and well-pressed clothes add up to Campus Charm!

The girls who excel at sports, in studies and in their careers are the girls who care enough for their personal appearances to be well

groomed for every occasion. It is not the amount of money that you spend on your clothes, it is the way that you take care of them and wear them.

The new trend is Neatness, no more "sloppy casuals", they are out of fashion and out of favour.



PIN-UP AT FIVE

Paris—Five-year-old Marie-Claire, the pin-up baby of Paris, is the latest of the success ladder.

She is a French school of rhythmic dancing. Brown-eyed, curly-haired, Marie-Claire turned out to have a gift for dancing. Better, she got the school's vote as the most popular baby of her year.

So that when the mother of one of her school friends opened what was one of the first children's dress houses in Paris, it was inevitable that Marie-Claire should be picked as one of the mannequins.

Next step up this career girl came with a walk-on part in a French film—next, an offer to play the lead in a children's film which Pithé is making in Paris.

But Marie-Claire is not particularly interested in being a baby star. Clothes are her main interest. Even grown-up ones. And she positively loves being fitted.

And here are some of Marie-Claire's ideas on what the well-dressed five-year-old will wear.

Hats? Wear them like mother. Well on the back of your curls. Skirts? A little longer, perhaps, this season. Well, they should swing well clear of one's knees.

Lines? Marie-Claire likes her dresses to swing from the shoulders, with above-the-elbow puff sleeves and plenty of yoke interest—built up, like mother's yokes, with touches of old-fashioned hand embroidery. Seams like this.

But her favourite dress is a little number in soft red wool, with a swinging skirt edged with four rows of black braid and a little bolero. The hat which goes with it is a soft beret affair, worn well back. "It's really Scotch," says Marie-Claire.

BETTY WILSON

German General Urges Western World To Cure Its Russophobia

A German general whose anti-invasion advice was scorned by Hitler has urged the Western world to cure its "phobia of the Soviet Union."

No living German soldier is reputed to know the Russians better than Ernst Koestring, 71, retired general of cavalry, who was commanding 400,000 traitorous Soviet citizens in the Wehrmacht just three years ago.

"It is folly," he told the Associated Press in an interview, "to perpetuate Hitler's mistake of refusing to recognise the Soviet Union's basic desire to keep the peace. Russia cannot conquer the world—the world cannot conquer Russia."

Koestring's knowledge of Soviet affairs is so intimate that the United States Government took him to Washington in 1945 to draft a report.

Moscow-born, he helped in the early years of the Weimer republic to force a mysterious liaison between the Reichswehr and the Red Army, by which German officers were trained under cover in tank, aviation and chemical warfare in Russia.

He became the German military attaché in his native town in 1931, and retired because of Hitler's seizure of power. He returned to Moscow in the same post in 1935 at the request of the German High Command.

Speaking of the vast purge trials in Moscow, when hundreds of Red Army commanders were condemned to death, Koestring said: "So far as I know—and I believe I was in the position to know the truth—there was no organised military plot against the Soviet government. But I have reason to believe the German Government manufactured evidence that led the Soviets to liquidate these experienced officers and thereby crippled the Red Army, so it was retarded several years in its technical development."

Hitler Mad and Blind

He said he learned in September 1940 that Hitler was preparing for the invasion of Russia in the following year. He said he warned Hitler the Red Army's stalemate in the Finnish winter war was no true criterion of its potentialities, but added: "With Hitler there could be no reasoning... Hitler was both mad and blind."

Repatricated to Germany after the outbreak of hostilities he retired until 1943, when he was suddenly recalled to become Commander of the Eastern Volunteers.

Koestring lives on a Bavarian estate with his second wife. No Allied charges are pending against him and he expects to be cleared of a militarist charge by the Munich denazification.

AUSTRALIA'S EASTER SHOW

EXHIBITS FROM BRITAIN

Over 1,000,000 Australians are expected to visit the exhibition of Britain's postwar progress in manufacture and design which will form a part of the Sydney Royal Easter Show opening on March 31.

The motor vessel Karama has left London for Adelaide carrying the final consignment of exhibits. Owing to her late sailing and other calls on route, the Karama will reach Australia only a few days before the opening of the exhibition. Arrangements have been made to rush the exhibits overland from Adelaide to Sydney.

Some 100 firms have supplied 2,000 articles showing the wide range of Britain's postwar manufacture from small-scale toys to giant engineering. Here are some of the "revolutionary" items Australians will see: a domestic fireplace which will burn day and night through the winter months, using only the normal fuel ration; plastic clothing welded by radio frequency, which is neater and stronger than stitching; the world's most compact portable typewriter; a "magic eye" to show fishing boats where the shoals of fish are; and a new insulating material more buoyant than cork and of greater efficiency.

Included in the Royal Easter Show will be many duplicates of items selected for the "Britain Can Make It" exhibition. After the Show has finished, 400 book exhibits and many other items will be presented to Australian orphanages and hospitals at the request of the manufacturers.

ROYAL VISIT STAMPS

Special issues of postage and revenue stamps will be issued to commemorate the Royal visit to Basuto-land, Bechuanaland and Swaziland. There are four denominations. The penny stamp, pillar-box red, shows the King's head. The two-penny, green, shows the heads of the King and Queen side by side. The three-penny, deep blue, has for its design the heads of Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret; and the shilling stamp, in purple, the heads of the King, Queen and the two Princesses.

NEWSLETTER FROM WALES

By J. C. Griffith Jones

The War Office decision to demilitarise the coastal area at Harlech, North Wales, has pleased a large number of people. Not only local folk, but thousands of holiday-makers, who discovered the charm of Harlech before the war, can again enjoy the historic and scenic attractions of this district undisturbed by noises of battle in peacetime.

In announcing the Government's decision in Parliament the Prime Minister said: "The harm to public interest if Harlech were retained for military purposes would be so grave that its use for peace-time training must be abandoned."

The inhabitants of the Castle Martin area in South Pembrokeshire will not be quite so fortunate. A large area is to be retained on this picturesque coast for a permanent tank-training centre. Even here, however, the War Office has modified its original demands. Some 1,500 acres of ground will be handed back to the farmers, the hikers and fishing enthusiasts will be allowed access to certain parts of the coast. A public inquiry will be held to hear local objections before the military area is finally defined.

Meanwhile public protests persist against Services' claims on other rural areas in Wales, particularly in Breconshire, Denbighshire, and East Monmouthshire. A national conference of protest, convened by the criterion of its being held at Llandrindod, the crux of the argument is that local people should be consulted before their beauty spots and agricultural districts are taken over, if indeed good land must be yielded up. Much tolerance and understanding will be needed on the part of Service departments and civilian interests before this problem is solved.

Culm Popular As Fuel

One of the effects of the prolonged freeze-up and the fuel shortage in Wales has been that culm has become popular again as a fuel in West Wales. This is anthracite dust mixed with a little water and clay. It costs half as much as coal, and a culm fire, although a slower starter, will keep going as long as it is kept replenished. A report from Pembrokeshire says that a culm fire at one farm has kept burning for 200 years. At any rate this substitute for home fires that Pembrokeshire has stopped exporting culm to continental countries.

Dr Harvey, principal of Cardiff Technical College, has caused a sensation by his assertion that evening classes are a curse. He contends that students, after working hard every day, have themselves out attending night classes over a period of five or six years to qualify for degrees. Dr Harvey thinks that at the end of such exertions the students are "not a fat lot of use to themselves or anyone else." He believes that if a man is worth educating he should be given the opportunity to study in the daytime and not when he has been exhausted after a hard day's work.

Divided Opinions

Other Welsh educationalists are divided on this question. Dr Howell, principal of Neath Technical College, thinks, for instance, that Dr Harvey has gone off the rails. "It is true that some students fail to complete their courses owing to pressure of their daily work," he says. "But those who qualify find that their diplomas or degrees are a community."

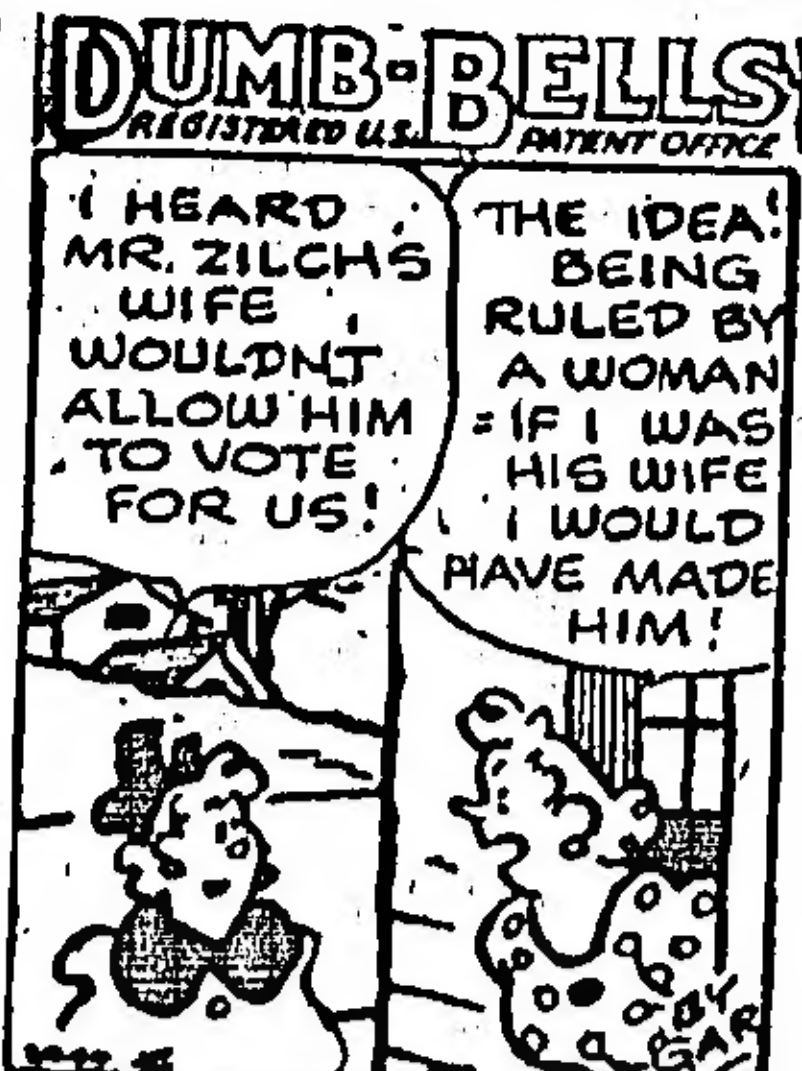
Mr Cecil Morgan, principal, Llanelly Mining and Technical Institute, is among those who support Dr Harvey. "Evening classes are a poor substitute for part-time day classes and a terrific strain on the student," he declares.

In Wales, at any rate, the workers generally have a high regard for "the University of the After-Dark." Through the gateway of many evening classes thousands of Welshmen have satisfied their urge for knowledge, and many have gone on to the University and important posts from this modest training ground. In the last ten years, however, employers in Welsh industry have increased opportunities for keen young workers to attend day classes so that practical and theoretical training is advanced simultaneously.

With industry now turning over to increase night work owing to fuel and power crises many evening students will have to reorganise their lives and continue their part-time education during the day.

Amateurs Said Paid

The Welsh Rugby Union is disturbed at reports of secret payments to players by some South Wales clubs. There is evidence that several second-class clubs have been offering under cover money to promising young players if they join



KEW GARDENS GETS OUT OF BATTLEDRESS

There cannot be many people who have not heard of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, London. For a long time the collections of living plants have placed the gardens among the great show places of Britain, and even in 1942, in the middle of the war, they attracted over 1,250,000 visitors.

During the war, it was difficult to overestimate the gardens' good effect on tired workers and on members of the Forces on leave. Although the conflict left its scars there as elsewhere, Kew remained a bright and lovely place, a rest for jagged nerves and a psychological tonic.

Kew, however, is very much more than a show place. It has grown into a research institution, their botanical, digitalis, colchicum and other plants from which badly needed drugs were obtained. It experimented with new rubber-producing plants, it collaborated in the production of rose-hip syrup, it raised a potato crop from "eyes," and from common stinging nettles derived a first-class paper-making fibre and an ingredient of artificial silk.

Now that the gardens at Kew are fast reverting to their pre-war activities as a research institution, their attractiveness to the public remains as great as ever. This spring famous and greatly loved hickory wood will delight the eyes of thousands more eager visitors.

The tropical house, the rock gardens and other highlights, too, will be there in their pre-war splendour.

PHENOMENAL UNRRA AID FOR EUROPE

Nearly US\$2,000,000,000 worth of supplies were provided by UNRRA for European countries by the end of 1946.

Over £400,000,000 went to Poland, while Jugo-Slavia received \$304,000,000 worth. Greece and Italy also received over £300,000,000 and Czechoslovakia £227,000,000. £160,000,000 went to the Ukraine, and £102,000,000 to Austria.

During the same period, UNRRA repatriated the following displaced persons:

From Germany, 6,118,000; Austria, 842,600; Italy, 80,400; Middle East, 51,300.

A total of 722,493 displaced persons are still receiving assistance in UNRRA camps in Germany, Austria, Italy and the Middle East.

MASONIC RECORDS BACK IN JERSEY

Masonic jewels and records belonging to the Grand Lodges of Jersey have left Kreis Groenbrode to begin their journey back to Jersey from whence they were removed by the Germans during the occupation.

After the capitulation of Germany, they were collected together with a quantity of Jewish records into an archives repository at Offenbach near Frankfurt, in the American zone, and were later brought back to a repository at Schloss Dyck as part of interzonal transfers.

The masonic authorities in the Channel Islands were informed of their recovery, and the records and jewels were formally identified by the Worshipful Grand Master of another Lodge who is now serving with the Control Commission.

Shoes Repaired One At A Time

Because so many pairs of shoes have been reported "lost" in repair shops, Berliners now are having only one of their shoes repaired at a time. When it is finished, its owner brings in the other.

Many "lost article" cases have been heard in the courts, and testimony indicates some items reappeared in Berlin's costly black market for sale.

—Associated Press.

Their ranks. The idea is to build up second-class teams into front-rank attractions.

One of the officials of the Welsh Rugby Union said: "This veiled professionalism is bad for the game in Wales. When proof of such violation of amateur status is obtained the offenders will be dealt with severely by the Union." An inquiry may be held, shortly into several allegations.

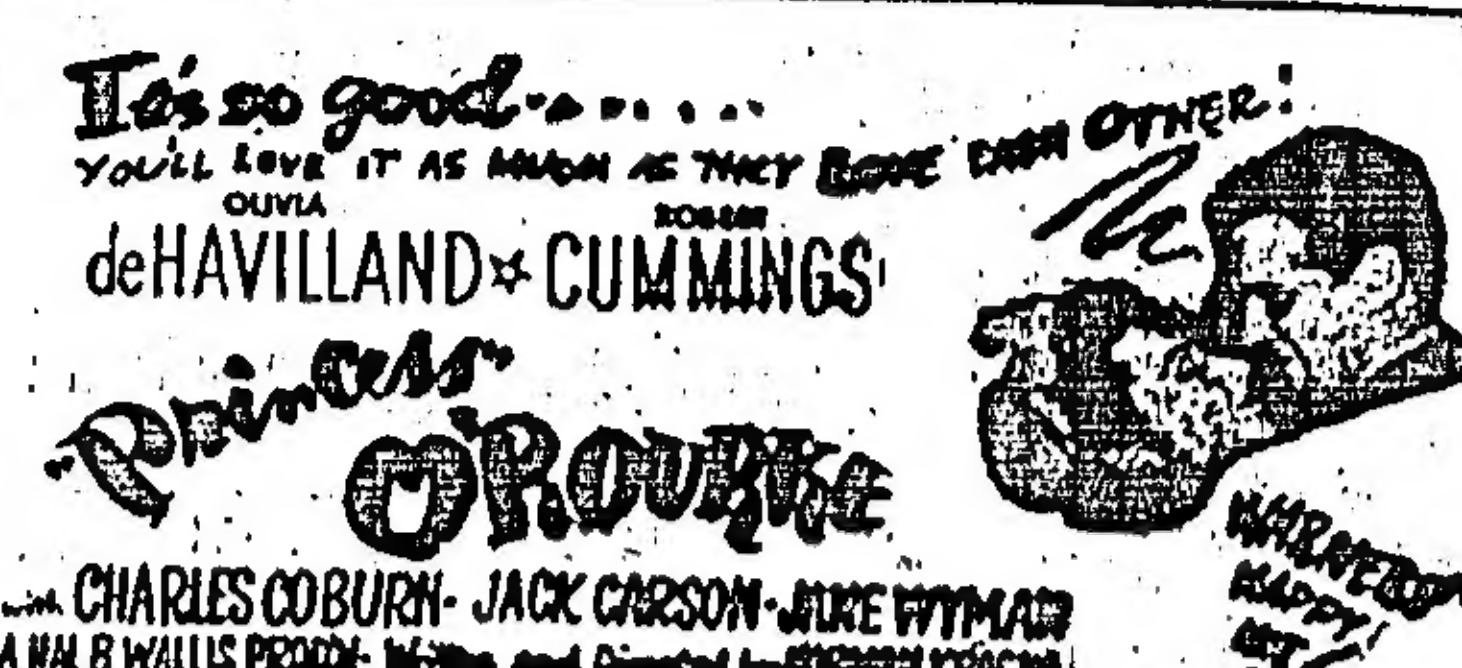
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COMMENCING TO-MORROW

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF TIME

2.15, 4.45, 7.00 & 9.20 P.M.

WARNER'S MIGHTIEST OF ALL!

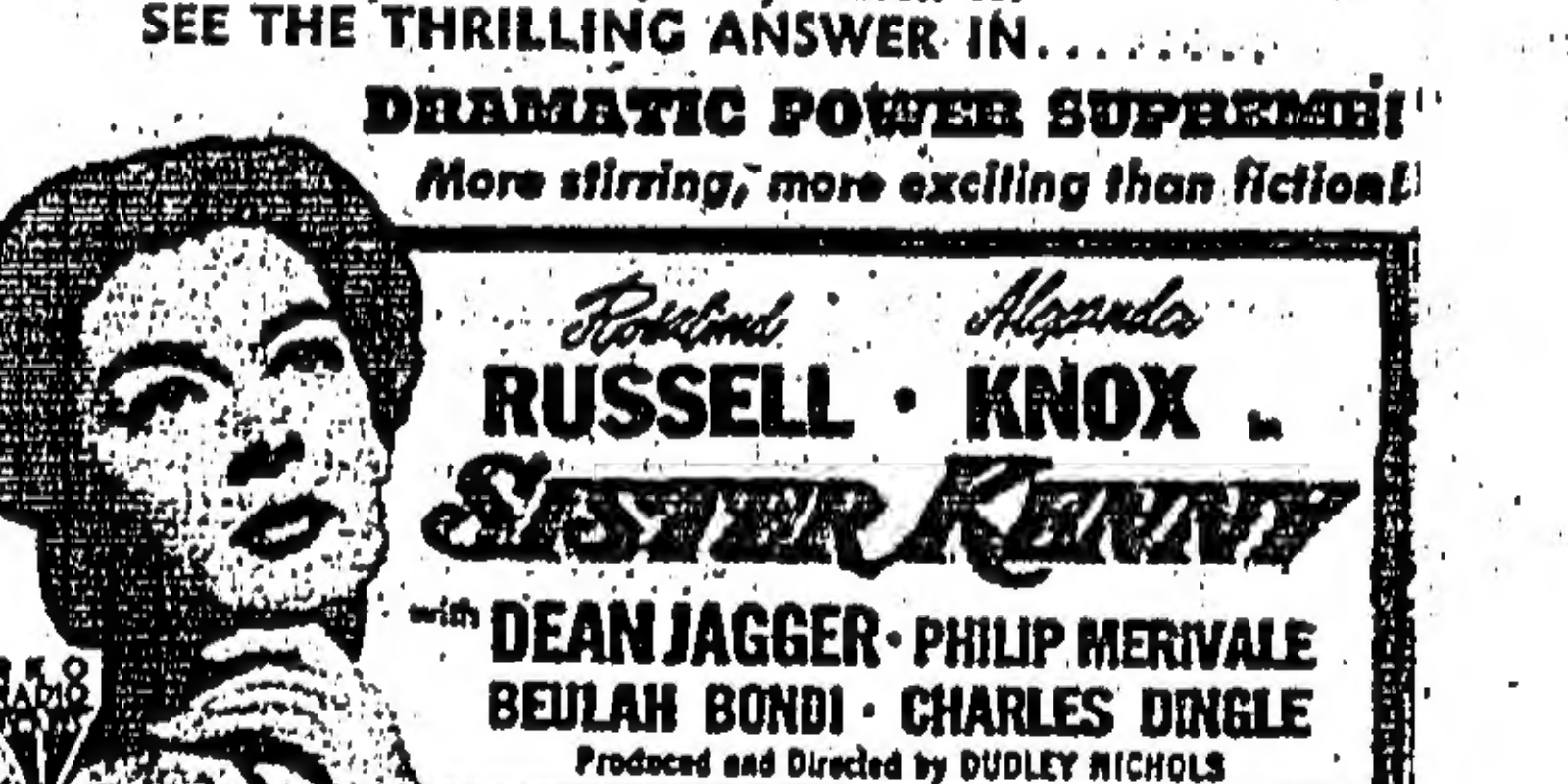


with WILLIAM PRINCE - JAMES BROWN - DICK ERDMAN
GEO. TOBIAS - HENRY HULL - WARNER ANDERSON
Directed by RAUL WALSH
Screen Play by Ronald MacDonnell and Lester Cole - From an Original Story by Alvin Bessie - Music by Franz Waxman

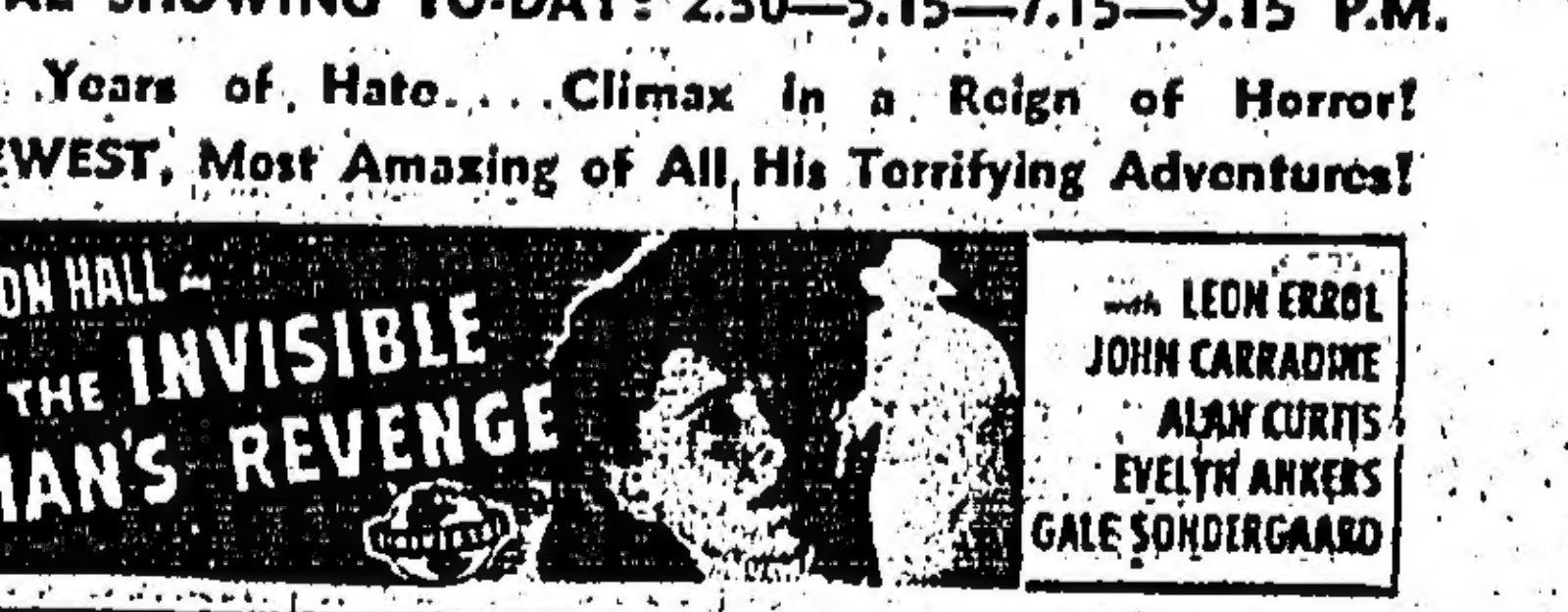
TO-DAY ONLY QUEEN'S At 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 p.m.



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BOOKINGS NOW OPEN!
Is any woman right when she gives up LOVE for DUTY?
Is it over really worth it?
SEE THE THRILLING ANSWER IN...
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More stirring, more exciting than fiction!



FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY: 2.30-5.15-7.15-9.15 P.M.
40 Years of Hate... Climax in a Reign of Horror!
NEWEST, Most Amazing of All His Terrifying Adventures!



Commencing To-morrow: "SALOME, WHERE SHE DANCED?"

CATHAY TO-DAY & TO-MORROW
At 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 p.m.

DYNAMIC ACTION! THUNDEROUS THRILLS!

UNDERSTANDING LOVE!

James OLIVER CURWOOD'S

"RED BLOOD of COURAGE"

Starring

Ann SHERIDAN • Kosmit MAYNARD

AID DECISION ENDS SOVIET NERVE WAR AGAINST TURKEY

Istanbul, Mar. 19.

President Truman's decision to seek Congress sanction for aid to Turkey and Greece has the same significance for Turkey as "a big battle won." This has been the typical Turkish reaction, both official and unofficial to the President's message.

The amount of United States aid is of secondary importance, and it matters little whether it is to be employed in modernising Turkish armaments or on industrial and agricultural equipment, it is felt here. What does matter is that President Truman has lifted from Turkey the heavy burden imposed by the sense of isolation in the face of an impending threat from Soviet Russia.

The Turkish view is that since the end of hostilities, Turkey has been acting as a bulwark against Russian expansionism and that President Truman's action implies that this role has at last won world recognition. Further, it will ease the very severe economic strain which this conception of Turkey's role had imposed on the country's economic structure.

The Turkish Government, oppressed by a crushing sense of insecurity, has been maintaining an army of 1,000,000 men under arms in readiness for any emergency. This is a gigantic figure for a people of 10,000,000, and it has swallowed 65 percent of the resources of the Turkish state.

It reveals the depths of Turkish apprehension of Soviet intervention, resulting from two years of nerve war which Russia is considered here to have waged against Turkey so that the Turks have come to see their country as a giant David facing alone and unarmed the "Goliath of the North."

Soviet-Turkish Relations

The state of Turkish-Soviet relations to-day is a complete reversal of the situation after the first World War. When the new republican regime of Kemal Ataturk was still fighting for international recognition and the new Soviet regime was in much the same position, the two governments reached an agreement as early as August, 1920.

This was followed in March, 1921 by a treaty in which they gave each other mutual recognition, fixed a common frontier and arranged for future economic relations between the two countries.

Thus Turkey seemed to have buried for ever her century-old distrust of Russia's perennial drive for control of the Straits. For nearly 20 years, relations between the two countries were practically unclouded, and the Turks accepted useful economic and technical aid from Russia.

The first clouds gathered in August, 1939. The Molotov-Ribbentrop pact came as a staggering shock to the Turks, who had been hoping for a defensive alliance between Russia and the West.

Nerve War

From then on there was a shadow over Turkish-Soviet relations. With the ending of the war, Moscow stated what was regarded as a nerve war against Turkey. The first of a series of Soviet notes was delivered, requesting a revision of the Montreux Convention, regulating shipping through the Straits, and suggesting a joint Soviet-Turkish defence of this area.

These demands would, in the Turkish view, fatally infringe Turkish sovereignty and integrity. The resulting deadlock has persisted for nearly two years, during which Turkey considered Soviet pressure has never really decreased. The cumulative strain has told heavily on Turkey, both economically and psychologically. It is this strain that has been suddenly eased in the most welcome way by President Truman's pledge of aid.—Reuter.

STRACHEY NEVER DEPORTED

London, Mar. 19.—The Food Minister, Mr. John Strachey, at a press conference here today, denied the assertions made by the Canadian Minister of Agriculture that he had ever been deported from the United States as an undesirable. "I had two legal cases in America in 1934 and 1935—and very interesting they were," Mr. Strachey added. "I was accused of being a radical—which, in fact, I am. In the end the American courts decided that they had no power to deport an alien in those circumstances."—Reuter.

KING GUSTAF GOING TO RIVIERA

Stockholm, Mar. 19.—King Gustaf, 89-year-old Swedish monarch, left here by train today for a two-month stay in the Riviera. The whole Royal Family will be off at the station. He will arrive in Nice on Saturday, after a short stopover in Paris.—United Press.

VISAS ABOLISHED

London, Mar. 19.—Sweden, Switzerland and Liechtenstein have agreed to abolish visas from April 1. The Swiss radio announced to-day quoting an official announcement. "Visas will still be necessary for Swedes seeking employment in Switzerland and Swiss and Liechtenstein citizens seeking employment in Sweden."—Reuter.

10,000 Communists Said Slain In Yen'an Capture

Nanking, Mar. 19.

A National Defence Ministry spokesman said to-day that over 10,000 Communists were killed and wounded and more than 2,000 were captured by the Nationalists in taking Yen'an this morning.

The spokesman said the Communist defenders totalled 100,000.

There is no information as to the whereabouts of the top Communists, Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai.

The New York Times, in an editorial to-day, said that the loss of Yen'an would be a severe blow to Communist morale, even though it would not mean the end of China's civil war.—United Press.

Royal Family Receives Welcome From Zulus

Natal, Mar. 19.

Members of the famous Impi, of the Zulu army, performed ceremonial dances before the Royal party to-day, climaxing their primitive evolutions by virtually hurling themselves at the feet of their Majesties.

U.S. EXPORT CONTROL

EXTENSION OF ACT ASKED

Washington, Mar. 19.

President Truman to-day asked Congress to extend the United States Export Control Act for one year. He stated in his message that it was essential to extend the act well in advance of June 30, the date on which it expires.

"Any delay would prove unsettling to business and would handicap the planning and execution of our foreign and other programmes," President Truman said. The President promised that export controls would be removed as rapidly as possible, pointing out that the list of items had been slashed from the wartime peak of over 3,000 to approximately 500. He gave the warning of possible effects on domestic economy, if Congress allows the act to expire, but stressed the danger to United States international commitments.

Worldwide Responsibilities

"The United States has become a nation with worldwide responsibilities. During the period of world shortages, the distribution of this country's exports has serious international significance," the message stated.

"Our international responsibilities cannot be fulfilled without this machinery. In its absence, foreign purchasing would tend to be concentrated on those commodities in the greatest shortage."

President Truman recalled the financial assistance which the United States had extended and declared: "Export control is an important instrument in carrying out the purpose of these loan programmes." The President predicted that the world supply situation "will certainly remain acute for some time to come."—Reuter.

HOUSEWIVES IN DEMONSTRATION

Leeds, England, Mar. 19.

More than 1,000 housewives demonstrated here to-day against "unnecessary burdens caused by food restrictions."

Mrs. Janet Neish said that women and children were being sacrificed by Government in the interests of trade unions. "Ignore your husbands," she advised demonstrators. "Don't cook for them and very soon they will tell the trade unions where to get off. When we women march it will be in thousands. We have had enough of this unnecessary austerity."—United Press.

Extending Punjab Death Sentences

Lahore, Mar. 19.

Sir Evan Jenkins, Governor of riot-torn Punjab Province, to-day announced an act providing death sentences for attempted murder, abduction, rape, dacoity (banditry) and arson.

The act also empowers magistrates and police officers to open fire or use other forcible means, even so far as causing death, against any person disobeying the Government's ban on the assembly of more than five persons and carrying of weapons or objects that could be used as weapons.—Reuter.

POLICEMAN KILLED BY EXPLOSION

Jerusalem, Mar. 20.

One British policeman was killed and five other British were injured when a bomb exploded among them as they were returning from a motion picture theatre to their quarters north of Hadassah between Haifa and Tel-Aviv. It was officially announced on Wednesday night.—Associated Press.

RAF CRASH

Colombo, Mar. 19.

A RAF transport plane en route from Britain to Singapore, to-day crashed and burned four miles north of Negombo airport, killing 11 of the 17 persons aboard.—Associated Press.

"La Passionaria" Calls For Anti-Franco Front

Paris, Mar. 19.

Dolores Ibarruri, Secretary General of the Spanish Communist Party in France, charged to-day that certain "imperialistic groups interested in the continuation of Fascist or semi-Fascist Spain" existed in the world to-day and were helping Generalissimo Franco to remain in power.

Addressing the inaugural meeting of the third plenary conference of the Spanish Communist Party which opened here to-day, Miss Ibarruri, known as "La Passionaria," said: "Neither English imperialists nor North American reactionaries desire the establishment of a republic in Spain, even if it should be a moderate republic."

Speaking to more than 500 delegates, representing Communist groups from France, the interior of Spain, England, Italy, Hungary, Norway, China and Finland, the Spanish civil war leader asserted that 71.9 percent of Franco's current budget was devoted to the Army.

She termed it "false" that Spanish Communists wished to ignite another civil war in Spain.

"In all such wars," she said, "it is our own class which makes the most losses. We want peace, justice and the re-establishment of a normal and democratic order."

Miss Ibarruri said the Communist Party believed Franco should be replaced by a republican government.

Numerous Civil Wars
"For a king or for others, there have been numerous civil wars in Spain, but the people have never taken up arms for monarchy as a form of government," she said. Explaining her party's participation in Rodolfo Llopi's Republican Government-in-exile, Miss Ibarruri said its members were in the government to see that it did not abandon "republican principles outlined by Senor Llopi when he first took office."

"We support the Llopi government to-day because it is, as was that of Jose Giral, representative of the Republic," she said. She called for the formation of a "Republican Front" against Franco, which would be accompanied by strikes and mass protestations.—United Press.

Search Abandoned

Singapore, Mar. 19.

All hope of finding the crew of four and six passengers of the RAF Dakota, last on a flight from Singapore to Hongkong on February 26 has now been abandoned.

Mr. M. P. Dmitiescu, Indo-China representative at the Singapore Food Conference, was among the passengers aboard the plane.—Reuter.

U AUNG SAN APPEALS FOR SUPPORT

Rangoon, Mar. 19.

U Aung San, Deputy Chairman of the Burma Interim Government, to-day issued an appeal to the Burmese people for united and all-out support for the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League, of which he is the president.

U Aung San, who was addressing a campaign meeting in preparation for the coming elections to the Constituent Assembly, declared: "This is Burma's crucial hour. Our struggle for freedom is by no means over. May be we shall have to embark on another resistance movement. It is therefore imperative that the country returns resistance leaders in the coming elections."

"We do not want people with pretensions to learning, nor do we want people who would be self-seeking. We want honest men to serve the country in time of need. No party other than the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League will be able to lead the Burmese people to freedom."—Reuter.

Inter-Asian Conference

Rangoon, Mar. 19.

The Burmese delegation to the Inter-Asian Relations Conference, which is opening in New Delhi on March 23, is leaving Rangoon to-morrow by air. The delegation, numbering 16, is headed by Justice Kyaw Myint.

Thakin Mya, Finance Member of the Interim Government, and two other officials are also going to India to-morrow. They will attend the conference as observers.

It is understood that the Burmese Finance Member will also take advantage of the Delhi visit to sound the Government of India regarding prospects of securing a loan for Burma.—Reuter.

OUTWARD MAILS

Unless otherwise stated Registered Air Mail and Parcel Post is closed 15 minutes earlier than the time stated below.

Thursday, March 20

Airmail: Foochow, Shanghai, Peiping, Canton, Chungking, Amoy, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin, 3.30 p.m.
Seamail: Batavia, Sourabaya, Macassar, 3 p.m.
Pakhoi, Hoihow, Tsamkong, 2 p.m.
Manila, 3 p.m.
Kobe, 4 p.m.
Macao, Tientsin, Shekai, 4 p.m.
Canton, 4 p.m.

Friday, March 21

Airmail: Bangkok, Rangoon, Calcutta, Karachi, Baku, Cairo, Johannesburg, Augusta, Marseilles, London, New York, Canada, 3.30 p.m.
Kunming, Canton, Hoihow, 3.30 p.m.
Amoy, Shekai, 4 p.m.
Tientsin, Peiping, 3.30 p.m.
Seamail: Bangkok, 10 a.m.
Shanghai, USA, Central and South America, Canada (via San Francisco), 10 a.m.
Batavia, noon.
Shanghai, 2 p.m.
Kobe, 3 p.m.
Kobe, 4 p.m.
Macao, Tientsin, Shekai, 4 p.m.
Swatow, Amoy, Foochow, 2 p.m.
Train: Canton, 4 p.m.

Saturday, March 22

Airmail: Manila, 10 a.m.
Bangkok, Singapore, Colombo, Sourabaya, London, 3.30 p.m.
Canton, Luchow, Kunming, Chungking, 3.30 p.m.
Seamail: Swatow, 10 a.m.
Manila, noon.
Batavia, 3 p.m.
Manila, 3 p.m.
Kobe, 4 p.m.
Macao, Tientsin, Shekai, 4 p.m.
Train: Canton, 4 p.m.

TO-DAY'S BROADCAST

ZBW on 645 kilocycles from 12.50 to 2 p.m., and 5.30 to 11 p.m., and also on 9.25 megacycles in the 31 metre band from 12.20 to 1.15, 5.30 to 7.30 and 9 to 11 p.m. H.K.T.

5.30 Studio: Children's Hour; 6.30 Studio: "Hospital Round"—Selections by Patients in Hospital, arranged by Lynn Fraser; 7. London Relay: World News; 7.10 London Relay: Home News from Britain; 7.15 Light Variety; 7.50 London Transmission Service: "It's a Pleasure"; 8.20 Studio: "Record Review"—A Review of the latest records received by ZBW; 8.30 Studio: "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer"; 9.10 Short Vocal Recitals by Elizabeth Schumann (Soprano); 10.25 Elizabeth Schumann Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11; 11.15 Short Vocal Recitals by the London Symphony Orchestra; 11.30 Close down.

Printed and published by Frederick Percy Franklin for and on behalf of South China Morning Post Limited at 1-3 Wanchang Street, City of Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong.

MAJESTIC

— TO-DAY ONLY —
At 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.



— TO-MORROW —
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"IT STARTED WITH EVE"



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CHINESE PROTEST OVER SHOOTING

Shanghai, Mar. 19.

The Chinese authorities have protested to the United States Army in Peiping over the alleged killing of a 14-year-old boy by the American Military Police, according to Chinese press reports.

The American authorities were quoted as saying that the boy was shot and killed while trying to climb over a barbed wire fence.—Reuter.

16 Nominees For Nobel Peace Prize

Oslo, Mar. 19.

The Nobel Committee announced to-day the names of 16 nominees for the 1947 Nobel Peace Prize, including Pope Pius, Mohandas K. Gandhi and the combined entry of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and Madame Alexandra Kollantai, former Soviet Ambassador to Sweden.

Other nominees were Eduard Benes, Czechoslovakian statesman; Natanek Deskow, Swedish educator and writer; Lionel Curtis, British author on peace subjects; C. J. Hambro, former president of the Norwegian Parliament; Paul Harris, American founder and President Emeritus of Rotary International; Herbert H. Lehmann, former head of UNRRA; John Morgan, British lawyer and writer; Sir John Boyd Orr, Director General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization; Georges Sealle, French writer and former official of the League of Nations; Freiherr Paul von Schunaberger, German anti-Nazi and pacifist; John Ude, Austrian pacifist; and Alfred Zimmermann, British author.—United Press.

Greek Leftists Lose Hope

King's Abdication A Dream Of The Past

London, Mar. 19.

Greek Republican quarters in London said to-day that they had lost all hope that King George of the Hellenes might abdicate in the foreseeable future.

There had been a tendency among Greek Republicans to believe that the United States would link its economic assistance to Greece with friendly suggestions for the King's abdication or at least his replacement by his heir, Prince Paul.

Greek Republican quarters now see the new American interest in Greece as consolidating the Royalist regime rather than jeopardizing it. These sources said the Americans were even less likely to make difficulties for the Greek monarchy than the British and King George was not one to give up without strong pressure from abroad or a successful revolution within Greece.—United Press.

FRONTIER REPORT

Athens, Mar. 19.

Press reports printed here claimed that guns at Yugo-Slav frontier posts opened fire against Greek troops during a 12-hour battle between Greek Army forces and guerrillas.

The reports gave no definite location.

Rumours that a great anti-guerrilla campaign had started still were unconfirmed from official sources to-day, but the Minister of Public Order, General Zervas, and the Minister of Justice, Apostolos Alexandris, left for Salonika by plane suddenly.—United Press.

WANTS RUSSIA BOMBED

Philadelphia, Mar. 19.

George Earle, former United States Minister to Austria and Bulgaria, to-day urged the bombing of Russia "to eliminate the Communist menace to civilization."

Earle said "We ought to bomb Russia before she bombs us. I would be sorry to see Russian women and children killed but I would rather it be that way than have Soviet bombs kill American women and children."—United Press.

Giant Airliner's Trials

London, Mar. 19.

The prototype of "Brabazon I", giant 110-ton airliner—the biggest and most advanced jet made in Britain—will start its trial flight before the end of this year, according to present indications, said Lord Nathan, Minister for Civil Aviation, in a Parliamentary answer to-day.—Reuter.

U.S. REFUSES GRAIN FOR YUGOSLAVIA

Belgrade, Mar. 19.

A Yugo-Slav authoritative source said to-day the United States Government had refused to send grain to Yugo-Slavia, contending that there was no real threat of starvation in that country and that cereal stocks were not available.

UNRRA, declining to comment on the report, announced that the United States had cancelled 16,000 tons of a 24,000-ton order of potatoes for Yugo-Slavia.

The order was placed through UNRRA and cancelled because of the transportation bottleneck between warehouses and seaports in the United States, and because all available transportation was being turned over to priority shipments of potatoes to Germany, the announcement said.

The authorities, but unofficial source, said UNRRA had notified the Yugo-Slav Government of the United States refusal and had informed Marshal Tito's government that it must take its own steps to avert a food shortage.

Broad nations have been cut twice in Yugo-Slavia this year.—Associated Press.

REPARATIONS FROM JAPAN

Washington, Mar. 19.

An Administration source said to-day that the United States "probably will authorize General Douglas MacArthur next week" to proceed with the interim reparations plan awarding up to 30 percent of available Japanese industry to claimant nations.

The State Department several weeks ago notified the Far East Commission that it had such a plan and asked reaction from the 11 member nations.—United Press.

British Troops To Quit Greece

London, March 19.

A high Government source confirmed to-day that the United States has been informed by Britain that it is prepared to evacuate British troops from Greece about August.

While the British had set March 31 as the date by which they would surrender their responsibilities in Greece, the never had said they expected to withdraw their troops by then.—United Press.

SOLD LIQUOR TO ENLISTED MEN

Frankfurt, Mar. 19.

Army officials said to-day that four constabulary officers had been convicted of selling liquor to enlisted men at black market prices.

The officers were Captain Frederick M. Trump, who was sentenced to dismissal from the service; 1/Lt. Francis D. Scott, fined US\$250 and reprimanded; 1/Lt. Paul R. Montgomery, fined US\$250 and reprimanded; and 2/Lt. John P. Downing, fined US\$200 and reprimanded.—United Press.

GRAND NATIONAL ENTRIES

London, Mar. 19.

The number of entries in the Grand National steeplechase, to be run at Aintree on March 22, was cut to 68 at the final acceptance stage.

This same number was the national record field that contested the four-and-a-half-mile chase in 1929.

Six horses scratched yesterday which was the deadline for paying the entry fee.—Associated Press.

QUEEN MARY FINGERPRINTED

London, Mar. 19.

Queen Mary was fingerprinted in the crime laboratories of Scotland Yard to-day during a visit to inspect its facilities.—United Press.